



# Drought Information Statement for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

Valid January 25th, 2024

Issued By: WFO San Juan, PR

Contact Information: [sr-sju.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-sju.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated by mid February or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/sju/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Caribbean

## U.S. Drought Monitor Caribbean

January 23, 2024

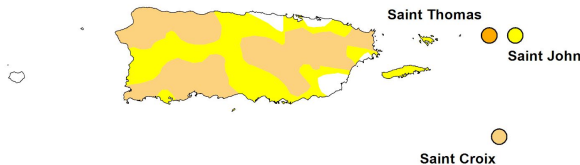
(Released Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

**DROUGHT CONDITIONS:** Drought conditions continue across the territories.

### Drought Intensity and Extent

- Saint Thomas, USVI: **Severe Drought (D2)** conditions.
- Saint Croix, USVI: **Moderate Drought (D1)** conditions.
- Saint John, USVI: **Abnormally Dry (D0)**
- Puerto Rico:
  - **Abnormally Dry (D0)** conditions across most of the archipelago, covering around 94%.
  - **Moderate Drought (D1)** conditions, mainly across the interior, southwestern, and northwestern sections of the main island, covering around ~54%.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.96	94.04	53.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-16-2024	8.57	91.43	39.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-24-2023	60.00	40.00	12.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2024	46.79	53.21	4.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	52.86	47.14	13.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-24-2023	84.31	15.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Statistics do not include areas represented by points.

### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.asp>

U.S. and Puerto Rico Author:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author:

Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am EST January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 .

National Weather Service  
San Juan



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# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **1 to 2 Class Degradation is now observed across most of Puerto Rico.**
  - **1 Class Degradation is now observed across Saint John.**

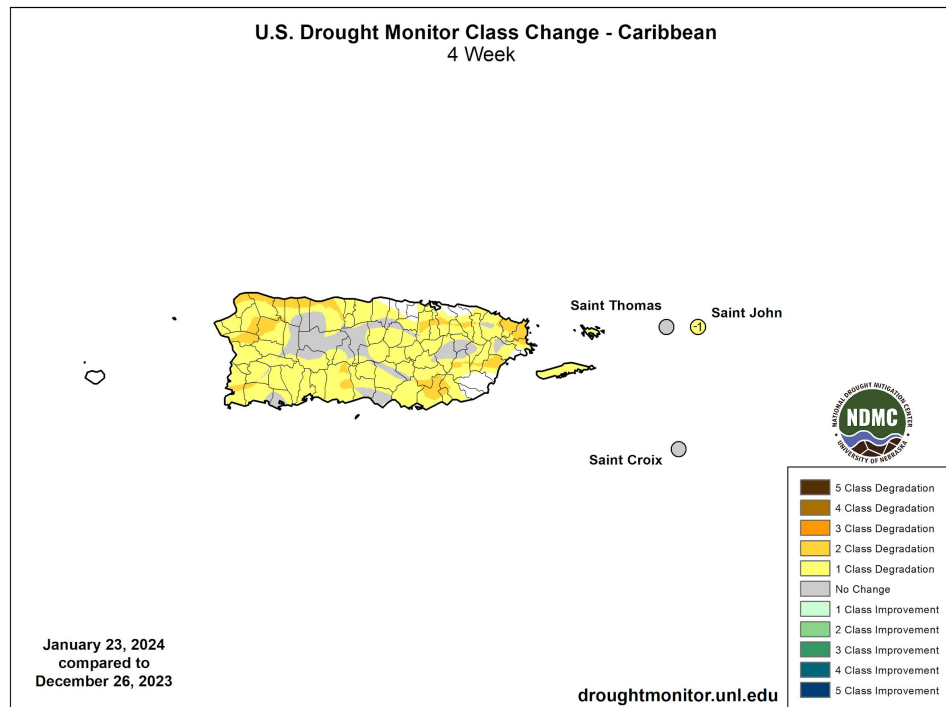


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am AST Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.



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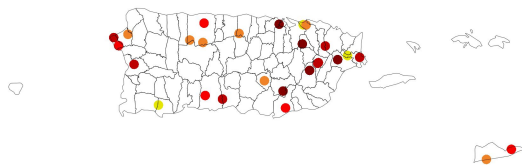


# Rainfall

Link to generate the latest [ACIS Climate Maps](#)

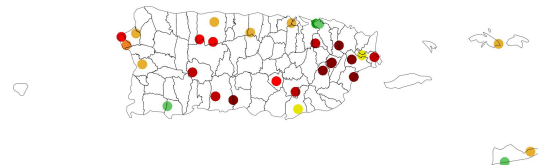
- Almost all of the COOP sites show below normal precipitation in the 60-day and 90-day departure from normal.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
11/26/2023 – 1/24/2024



Generated 1/25/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
10/27/2023 – 1/24/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers, rated 1/25/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center

Image Captions:

Left - 60-day Departure of Normal Precipitation for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands  
Right - 90-day Departure of Normal Precipitation for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands  
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center/NWS COOP Stations.



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# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Agricultural Impact

- A combination of high winds and reduced rainfall activity is resulting in drying soils. Additionally, the vegetation is showing signs of stress. Poultry production has been negatively affected. There is limited water access.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Increasing brush and grass fires frequency, mainly across southern Puerto Rico.

## Mitigation Actions

- Water your lawn less often, identify and fix leaks, take shorter showers, turn off the water while brushing teeth, and run the wash less frequently.





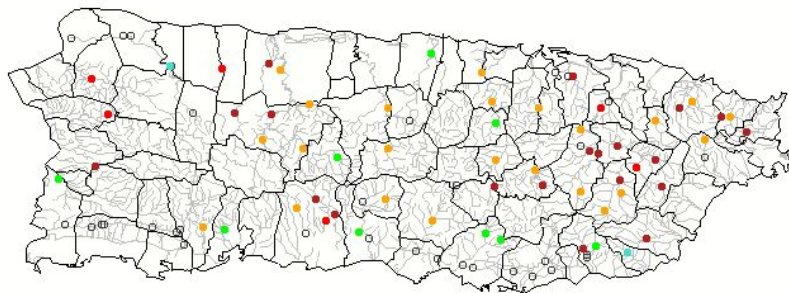
# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

The latest 28-day average historical streamflow from USGS can be found in [WaterWatch](#)

- The 28-day average streamflow from the USGS river gauge network indicates most streamflows running below or well below normal across the western half and eastern interior of Puerto Rico.
- Groundwater wells are decreasing in St. Thomas and St. John and are not changing too much in St. Croix.
- Most Groundwater wells are at optimal conditions across southern Puerto Rico, except for JAC-6 in Juana Díaz which is at observational levels.

## Latest Monthly Average Streamflow from USGS

Wednesday, January 24, 2024



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Image Caption: USGS streamflow plot valid January 17th , 2024







# Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

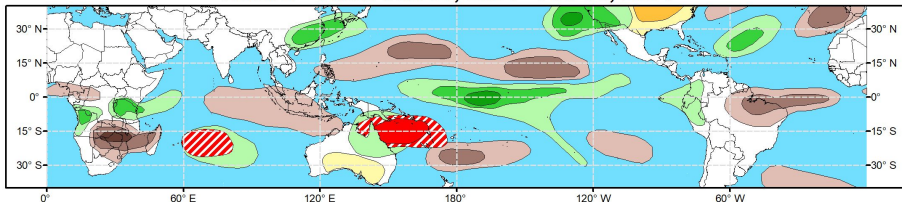


## Global Tropics Hazards Outlook

Climate Prediction Center

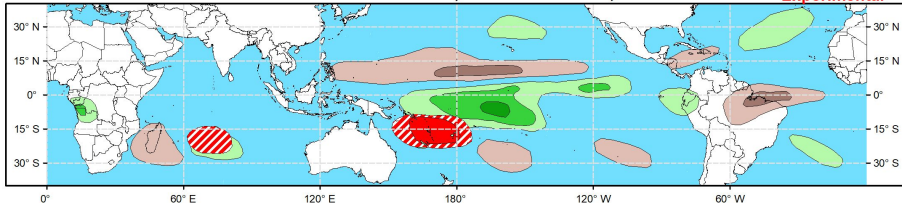


Week 2 - Valid: Jan 31, 2024 - Feb 06, 2024

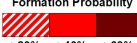


Week 3 - Valid: Feb 07, 2024 - Feb 13, 2024

**\*\* Experimental \*\***

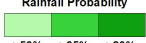


Tropical Cyclone (TC)  
Formation Probability



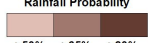
Tropical Depression (TD)  
or greater strength

Above-Average  
Rainfall Probability



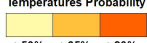
Weekly total rainfall in the  
Upper third of the historical range

Below-Average  
Rainfall Probability



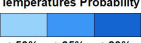
Weekly total rainfall in the  
Lower third of the historical range

Above-Average  
Temperatures Probability



7-day max temperatures in the  
Upper third of the historical range

Below-Average  
Temperatures Probability



7-day min temperatures in the  
Lower third of the historical range

Issued: 01/23/2024

Forecaster: Barandiaran

This product is updated once per week and targets broad scale conditions integrated over a 7-day period for US interests only. Consult your local responsible forecast agency.

Image caption: Global Tropics Hazards Outlook for January 31-  
February 13, 2024.

- The Global Tropics Hazards Outlook shows NO predictability (neither above/below average favored) through February 13th, 2024.



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# Long-Range Outlooks

The latest three-months precipitation outlook can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- In the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), neither above nor below normal precipitation is favored for the period of February through April 2024.

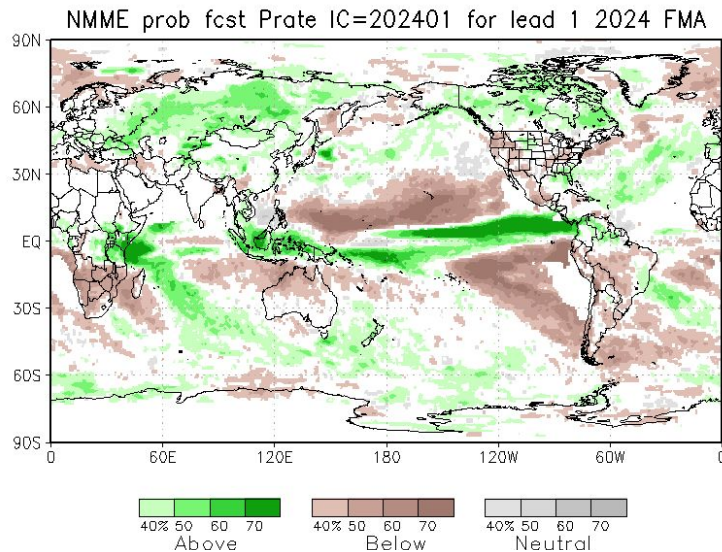


Image caption: NMME precipitation forecast issued January 2024.





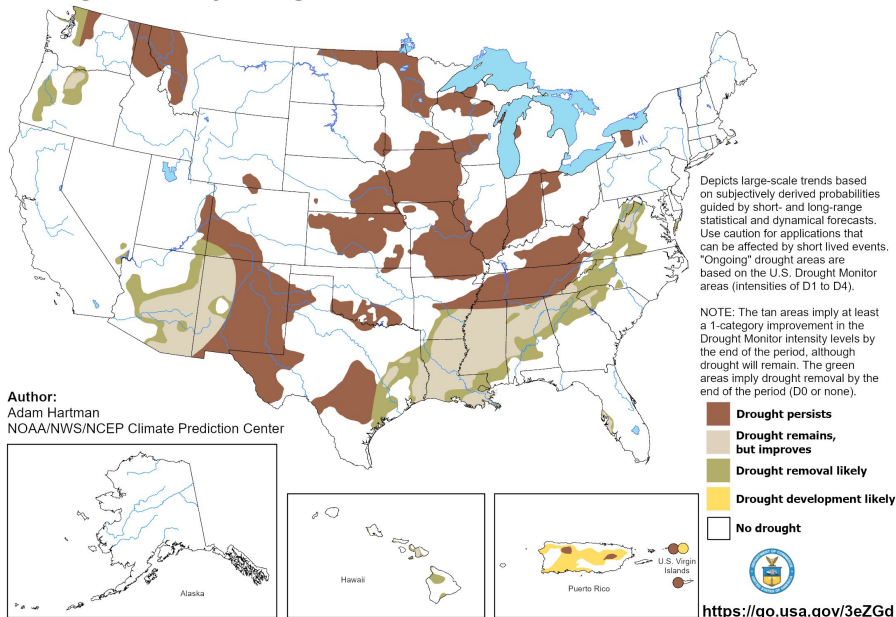


# Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for January 2024  
Released December 31, 2023



- Based on the latest forecast, drought conditions will develop or deteriorate across most of Puerto Rico, and across all of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Image Caption: U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook valid for January 2024.



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